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BRIEFLY

Europe

Treholt discounts spy papers' value

OSLO — Expert witnesses testified in Norway's biggest postwar espionage trial yesterday that a former highly placed Norwegian foreign ministry official had passed documents of great intelligence value to Soviet and other foreign contacts.

Arne Treholt, 42, formerly with Norway's United Nations delegation, has admitted giving Soviet U.N. diplomat Viktor Syisyin documents from the end of 1980 until August 1982.

But he has said they were of the lowest security classification, containing nothing not already published in U.S. newspapers. Expert witnesses testified yesterday that some of the information Mr. Treholt allegedly provided to the Soviet Union and others was generally known, but that the documents provided important official confirmation and inside analyses not otherwise available.